



# Sojo Family News

SOJOURNERS

## Foster Parents Recognized at Holiday Party

Sojourners Foster Care hosted the Annual Holiday Party on Friday, December 12th at the McArthur Fireman's Hall. This year's party was a tremendous success, with upwards of 80 members of the Sojourners family in attendance. In addition to the holiday traditions of Santa Claus and many gifts, several foster parents were recognized for their commitment to our Sojourners values.

Mike and Vickie Crabtree were recognized with the Commitment Award, for their dedication to young people through challenging circumstances. The Crabtrees also won an Adirondack chair—they got a raffle ticket for helping with recruitment of new foster parents.

Tim and Rhonda Lambert were recognized with the Empowerment Award, for their approach to working with

young people through building upon strengths and talents.

Jim and Vesta Bailey were recognized with the Partnership Award, for their skills in developing relationships with service providers and families.

Lawson and Linda Higgins, as well as Bob and Mary Tromm, were recognized with the Unity Award, for their ability to de-

velop positive, respectful relationships with birth families of their foster youth.

We thank all foster caregivers for their commitment to the values and mission of Sojourners!

This month's newsletter is purple in recognition of this year's Martin Luther King Day Celebration hosted by Sojourners. For more information, see the next page.



Sojourners Board Members at the Annual Holiday Party. Pictured above, Chair Terri Fetherolf, Vice-Chair Nick Rupert, and Secretary Shirley Graham.

### From the Director

Over the holidays, I read the best-selling book titled *The Last Lecture*. From the captions, I expected to read about a man's struggle with his terminal illness. What I ended up reading was entirely different.

The author had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer,

a condition with a grim prognosis. A relatively young man and professor at Carnegie Mellon, he decided to compose a series of life lessons for his young children through his "Last Lecture" (video available on YouTube).

One "lesson" struck me as relevant to our young people.

He suggested people should "dream big." Regardless of whether our wildest hopes are to become a mechanic or astronaut, to play in the NFL or to work at Walt Disney... simply having a dream, a sense of purpose, can overcome any condition or circumstance. Dream big!

—Steve

#### Welcome Russ!

Sojourners welcomes Russ Elek as the new Youth Intervention Specialist. Russ was raised in Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio, right on Lake Erie. Russ has a B.A. in communications from Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio. He enjoys working with young people and is excited at the possibility of making a difference in the world.



#### Foster Care Calendar

- *Walk for the Homeless*, sponsored by Timothy House in Athens, Saturday, January 17, 2009.
- *Martin Luther King Day Celebration*, January 19, Vinton County High School.
- *Food Bank*—we'll call you when scheduled
- *Foster Care Training*, "Ansell-Casey Life Skills Training," Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Southeast Regional Library, 252 W. 13th Street, Wellston.
- *Foster Care Training*, "The Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Normal Child Development," Thursday, January 29, 2009, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., McArthur Library.



## Caring for Kids in Care

Shelia	464-1411	General Questions
Steve	418-1072	Director, Foster Care
Lisa	357-0143	Placement/Respite
Barb	418-0259	Licensing/Training
Joy	591-6279	Recruitment
Liz	596-1117	Operations
Sojourners Fax Number: 739-4357		

All numbers are in area code 740.

Please call Joy with questions about the newsletter—or to submit new recipes.

Congratulations to Joy Dickerson for taking first place in the Sojourners' Fantasy Football League. Good job! Steve Clever placed a valiant third. And Marcus Games?—it's too grim to discuss.

## Shelia's Corner

### New Year's Sweet Potato Pudding

#### Ingredients:

- 1 can (29-oz.) sweet potatoes
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 2 teaspoons of lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 1-1/2 quart baking dish. Combine everything and bake until hot and golden brown—about 30 minutes.

## Get Ready for

# Martin Luther King Day

On January 19, 2009, Sojourners will host its annual Martin Luther King Day celebration at Vinton County High School. We'll again offer *Dream Camp*—a day camp for young people from kindergarten through fifth grade. *Youthbuild* will do a service activity. *The Diversity Deli* will bring forth delicious food from the kitchen. And, as always, we'll march to the Vinton County Courthouse for a ceremony to honor Dr. King. You'll be getting a flyer on the activities in the next week or so.

*Dr. King worked for freedom in many different ways. He led boycotts. He taught people to fight violence with love. He organized marches like the one we'll have on the 19th. He dreamed freedom. He believed in equal rights for all people. He achieved things that others thought were impossible. This reflects the theme of this year's celebration—YES WE CAN Dream, Believe, Achieve.*

*Dr. King said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter." We want every voice to be heard, every dream to be believed in, every dream to be achieved.* —Joy

## Licensing and Training News

**Winter Training Catalog** Our catalog of training offerings for Winter 2009 will be sent with your checks this month. It has a new cover and an index of trainings by date and location. If you have been recertified in the past 18 months, we'll highlight the trainings that address the topics you chose in your training plan. We'll also highlight Saturday trainings for those of you who cannot attend during the week.

**Online Training Options** There are many online trainings, but the only one that is free is at [www.fosterclub.org](http://www.fosterclub.org). Click on the "fosterparents" tab and the information on online training will come up. Foster Club offers 19 courses, most of them worth one hour. After you take the course, you take a quiz. If you pass (and almost everyone always does!), print it off and send a copy to Barb; it serves as your certificate of completion. You can only take these courses once because the content does not change. We'll keep looking for other options to give you as many choices as possible.

### January Trainings

*Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon* at the Southeast Regional Library, 252 W. 13th Street, Wellston. We will be using their computer lab to become familiar with the Ansell-Casey Independent Living Skills for teens in our care. No coffee will be provided.

*Thursday, January 29, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.* at the library in McArthur. Judy Qualls will present "The Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Normal Child Development, an in-depth training normally given to caseworkers.

**More Party Pix** *Left:* Distance Learning Coordinator Veronica Wilcox shares a moment with Shelia Turn. *Middle:* Barb Tilley poses with her special guests Edna Satmary and Fern Siniff. *Bottom:* Joy Dickerson enjoyed having her dad, Bob Dickerson, at the holiday party.

